

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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*****For Immediate Release*****

Date: July 31, 2006
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Motorcyclist Killed In Collision On I-5 In Snohomish County

A Bellingham man was killed when he lost control of his motorcycle on northbound I-5 at MP 213. The motorcyclist struck the rear of a vehicle in front of him and then a guard rail. He was ejected from his motorcycle. All lanes of northbound I-5 were closed for almost four hours.

The July 26th collision occurred at 10:00 p.m. when the State Patrol received reports that a motorcycle was down on northbound I-5 at MP 213. According to witnesses, 23 year-old Robert A. Hawley of Bellingham, Washington, was driving his 2006 Honda motorcycle in the left lane when he struck the rear of a 2001 Mercedes SUV. Witnesses indicate Hawley was at a high rate of speed when he lost control of his motorcycle, struck the SUV and then the guard rail. Hawley was ejected from his motorcycle onto I-5. Witnesses indicate Hawley was traveling with another motorcyclist. The 2001 Mercedes SUV was driven by 48 year-old Keith Kosick of Surrey, BC.

Hawley sustained life-threatening injuries and died at the scene. Kosick was not injured in the collision. Investigators believe that speed may have been a factor in the collision.

To date, Washington State has seen motorcycle fatal collisions almost double from 1994. Since 1999, motorcycle registrations have increased 60 %. During that same time, motorcycle fatalities have increased 89 %. Most motorcycle fatalities occur between April and September. The most common causes are speed, impaired driving, and lane control problems. Alcohol does not appear to be a factor in this collision. Next of Kin has been notified.

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